

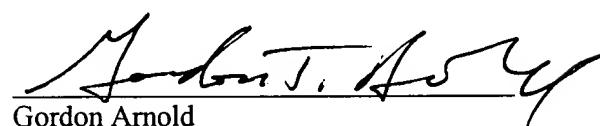
Applicant's method, apparati and system claims are so related so as to prevent patentably distinct inventions. For example, use of "[a] device for storing a trailer hitch apparatus," as claimed in Group I under the restriction requirement, would infringe the "method for storing a trailer hitch apparatus," as claimed in Group II under the restriction requirement.³ Similarly, the storage compartment apparatus claim would infringe the method claim.⁴ Because the inventions are not patentably distinct, Applicant contends that a restriction requirement is improper.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner reconsiders and withdraws the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,

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³ Rob G. Parrish, *Trailer Rack Rack*, pages 13,15, claims 1, 21 (United States Serial Number 09/501,793, Filed 2/10/00) (Atty Docket No. P30321US).

⁴ Rob G. Parrish, *Trailer Rack Rack*, pages 15, 18, claims 21, 37 (United States Serial Number 09/501,793, Filed 2/10/00) (Atty Docket No. P30321US).